

REVIEW OF "OPHTHALMIC OPERATIONS." By Seymour Philps. Second Edition by John Foster, F.R.C.S. (Pp. 368; figs. 456. 70s.) London: Baillière, Tindall & Cox, 1961.

THIS is the second edition of a well-known ophthalmic textbook, the first Editor of which was Seymour Philps, F.R.C.S. The first edition was published in 1950 and now it is brought up to date. Although Philps undertook the preparation of a new edition of Grimsdale and Brewerton's "Ophthalmic Operations," he entirely rewrote the book and supplied most of the illustrations. This second edition is presented very much as was the original, and Foster states that, as a practising surgeon of wide experience, he has sorted the various alternative operations, and has sifted out his own preferences—these he describes in his textbook. He does not attempt to give a choice of methods but only those techniques which have stood the test of time in his hands. One does not necessarily agree with his technique, but it has to be admitted that the whole book is sound from all points of view.

John Foster, in his introduction, claims that his book has been written for the occasional ophthalmic surgeon and those reading for the higher degrees and diplomas, and he has fully achieved this aim. When one has to call on someone else's experience it is much easier not to have to glean through a dozen different ways of doing a thing but to be told dogmatically that one way works, and works well. Some of the recent major advancements in ophthalmic surgery have been left out but the edition admits this and draws attention to it. For example, with light coagulation he states that his experience in this is very limited and he would not give a dogmatic opinion on the procedure. This is a hiatus which one feels could have been filled by the editor in association with an authority on the subject. The chapters have the same headings as in the first edition with one or two exceptions, and general points watched both by surgeon and theatre staff are well covered. Such things as sterilising, care of instruments and dressings are touched upon, and the book supplies most of the answers required again by the occasional surgeon who has to keep an overall supervision on his theatre staff and even prepare his own instruments. Many of the original illustrations are retained, and numerous new ones have been added. There has been no slavish attempt to just alter sufficiently the original book to create a new edition, but obviously the good parts have been retained, and parts not agreed with have been removed. Many up-to-date procedures have been included, and many adaptations of old procedures have been put in also, with the exclusion of the obsolete.

There is one point which echoes throughout the whole book, and with which one must disagree very strongly, namely the attitude of Foster (and Philps) to General Anaesthesia in ophthalmic surgery. Having had experience of both local and general, general anaesthesia with a good anaesthetist who knows what is required, presents none of the hazards which this book, and its previous edition suggest. It is not only safe, but desirable. One very good innovation is a slightly longer theoretical introduction to each chapter, and included at the end of each section are some references. These are extremely handy for the person reading for higher degrees, in that he can enlarge on any point of special interest to him.

A point which one notices when comparing the two editions is that Foster emphasises that repeated probings for dacryostenosis are useless. This, I think, should be put in large print and underlined, but I would like to see it advised that a child's naso-lachrymal duct should be probed through the upper punctum. Canaliculus surgery is described as a new insertion, but other parts of this chapter on tear drainage are unchanged.

In keratoplasty the techniques described are the old well-tried methods suitable for the occasional surgeon. A small point like Fuchs dystrophy being a contra-indication to grafting, one again cannot agree with it now being accepted that this is not true. A change of attitude is that towards congenital cataract. Here linear extraction is preferred to needling, and the chapter on post-cataract needling has been replaced by the one on unilateral aphakia. Here again the new ideas are brought forward, and the insertion of intra-ocular acrylic lenses is fully described. This new chapter is as lucid as the rest of the book, and ends with a note of caution on the widespread use of these lenticuli, especially in correcting refractive errors. The chapter on glaucoma is prefaced by a résumé of the treatment of the various types of

glaucoma and a table summarising this is provided. This is again excellent for quick reference, and for examination preparation. The recent advent of Diamox is emphasised and its uses given, and cyclo-diathermy after the method of Castroviejo is described, using multiple penetrating diathermy needle points instead of surface application. In detachments the use of binocular indirect ophthalmoscopy again brings this chapter up to date, and a photograph is given of various new designs of diathermy apparatus, including that of Stanworth of Manchester. One thing which I think is a major error of omission is that the operation of lamellar scleral resection is not described, this operation being replaced by that of scleral imbrication. This is rather a pity as resection is still the recognised procedure for a large number of detachment cases. Vitreous implantation in the chapter on retinal detachment is well described. The chapter on radiotherapy of retinal tumours has been entirely rewritten to include the use of Cobalt beam therapy, linear acceleration, etc., as well as surface application of radium and radon seeds. No mention of plastic scleral implants is made as an alternative to enucleation. These are widely used in America, and, having used them often, I think they should have a place in such a book.

All in all John Foster set out to supply a book containing detailed description of operative procedures of all the common and uncommon ophthalmic operations. He has succeeded fully in doing this, and in supplying more theory at the beginning of the chapter and bibliography at the end. He has filled in most of the gaps, if there were any, in Philp's original book. This is a book which is an absolute necessity for anyone who practices ophthalmology, whether he be a student of two-month's duration, or of fifty years, and one can only congratulate the author in this second edition. The book is some thirty-seven pages shorter but, on reading through it, one wonders at the amount of substance in the text and cannot find how the author managed to take these thirty-seven pages out and keep his book so full. The fact that the book is now one pound dearer than the first edition is not to be wondered at, but at the present price it is one of the most reasonable books in the speciality of ophthalmology.

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DIABETES MELLITUS IN THE TROPICS. By J. A. Tulloch, M.C., M.D., F.R.C.P.E.
(Pp. x + 294. 37s. 6d.) Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone, 1962.

UNTIL recently medicine in the tropics was concerned mainly with infectious diseases. Now, with improved anti-malarial measures and the widespread use of antibiotics, infectious diseases are taking a smaller share of medical resources and more attention is being paid to the important non-infectious diseases. Among these diabetes ranks high on the list. It is world-wide in its incidence and effective treatment depends on a good medical service and an educated population. In some areas diabetic care is advanced and this is largely due to the devoted care and enthusiasm of dedicated physicians. Professor Tulloch, the author of the book under review, is such a physician, and during his stay in the West Indies he devoted much time to the study of diabetes, and its management and control among a population much less sophisticated than our own. He was, for six years, in charge of the diabetic clinic of the University College Hospital of the West Indies. There he carried out original work on the dietary control of diabetics and related problems in a poor population. His book is the outcome of his interest in the subject and his industry in collecting the opinions and methods from physicians all over the world who are caring for diabetic patients in tropical zones. The result is a most valuable compilation of specialised knowledge in this sphere of medicine and the work will be indispensable for physicians treating diabetes in under-developed countries. Throughout the book diabetes is discussed in relation to the special problems of tropical countries. Difficulties in educational standards, and the distances which patients have to travel to obtain treatment, are stressed. While pointing out the problems, Professor Tulloch shows how they may be met in a practical manner. Useful appendices containing diets and food exchanges for native populations in different parts of the world are an added attraction. In all a most helpful and important addition to the literature on diabetes mellitus.

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